MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): Certain elements of IPKF, which were no longer operationally required in Sri Lanka, have been withdrawn recently. It would not be desirable to disclose deatils.

Joint Indo-Burma action against underground N.C.M.

2048. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major offensive has been launched against the underground National Council of Nagaland by the Indian Security Force in collaboration with the Burmese army;

(b) whether the joint strategy to tackle the insurgency was drawn at the high level meeting between the Indian and Burmese officials following the Prime Minister's visit to Burma during 1988; and

(c) if so, to what extent the measures taken by both the Governments have helped in flushing out the rebels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been no such high level meeting.

(c) Does not arise.

Reconnaisance aircraft for Indian Navy

2049. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy has received the first batch of TU 142M maritime reconnaisance aircraft;

(b) if so, the total number of such aircraft received;

(c) what is the total cost of expenditure involved; and

(d) the extent to which the induction of the aircraft into naval aviation would greatly augment the navy's maritime reconnaisance capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (d) Some TU 142M maritime reconnaisance and patrol aircraft have recenly been inducted into the Indian Navy to augment its surveillance capability. Further details cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

British co-operation in Defence Research and development

2050. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain has agreed to extend co-operation in the area of defence research and development in India;

(b) whether a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries in the first week of April, 1988; and

(c) if so, what are the main points of Memorandum of Understanding and the points on which the British Government has agreed to help India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India & U.K. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in New Delhi on 11-4-88 regarding Collaboration on Defence Research & Development (R&D).

(c) The MOU deals with cooperation on Research and Development in various defence technologies and not on specific weapon systems. It will not be in public interest to give details of the specific areas included in the M.O.U.